

Appl. No. 10/714,001
Examiner: PHAM, THANHHA S, Art Unit 2813
In response to the Office Action dated September 14, 2005

Date: January 12, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 10113201

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 14, 2005 and the Advisory Action mailed December 23, 2005 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Kitamura et al (US Patent No. 6,815,752). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Koubuchi et al (US Patent No. 6,664,642). Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amo et al (US Patent No. 6,690,052) in view of Rhodes et al (US Patent No. 6,458,651). Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amo in view of Rhodes, in further view of Saito et al (US Patent No. 6,399,438). Claims 12-20 are allowed. Claims 2-4 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's amendment to the claims filed on December 14, 2005 was not entered. In this paper, claim 1 is amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2. Claims 3-4 are amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. Claim 2 is canceled. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in the application.

Insofar as the amendments to claims 1 and 3-4 merely adopt the suggestion of the Examiner, and therefore require only cursory examination, it is Applicant's belief that entry of the amendment is merited.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

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Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 12-20 and the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2. Claims 3-4 are amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 1. It is therefore Applicant's belief that claims 1, 3 and 4 are now in condition for allowance. Insofar as claims 5-11 depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so.

Respectfully submitted,



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